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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 25 February 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to share with you my profound concern regarding a false and offensive ad campaign recently launched by the Azerbaijani side. Regrettably, during recent years, the Azerbaijani leadership is using the tragedy of Khojalu in order to dramatically increase the anti-Armenian propaganda, inside and outside of the United Nations.

I have learned of this matter through a press release issued by the Azerbaijani American Alliance, announcing its far-reaching marketing campaign of spreading long-discredited lies about Armenia and racist and prejudiced stereotypes about Armenians (available from http://azerbaijanamericaalliance.org/photo-gallery/2013-khojaly-commemoration).

Beyond this unacceptable interference in the civic life of New York City, which hosts the United Nations Headquarters and the largest number of permanent missions of Member States, I am deeply troubled by the factual twists and ethnic bias at the core of this so-called public awareness campaign conducted by the Government of Azerbaijan through its public relations client.

Such a deplorable undertaking sponsored by Azerbaijan breeds xenophobia and hatred, and undermines the hopes and aspirations for enduring peace among nations based on truth and justice.

Azerbaijan is consistently misrepresenting and distorting the reality of the Khojalu events of 1992, which, according to the testimonies of various international organizations and high-level Azerbaijani officials, including the then President, Ayaz Mutalibov, were organized by the Azerbaijani "Popular Front" opposition group in order to oust the Azerbaijani leadership of that time. Further details on the reality of those events are revealed in a number of United Nations documents

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circulated by the Permanent Mission of Armenia, the latest contained in A/66/708-S/2012/117, dated 27 February 2012.

Resorting to such actions, Azerbaijan tries to disguise its wrongdoings and evade responsibility for militarizing the Nagorno Karabakh issue. If Azerbaijan is keen on helping Azerbaijanis and Armenians to find a peace and resolution to the conflict, it would do better to direct its energy and the resources wasted on such a groundless and provocative "public awareness campaign" towards constructive participation in the negotiation process led by the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 39, and of the Security Council and be considered as a response to deceitful interpretations of the tragic events in Khojalu by the representatives of Azerbaijan during the open debate of the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, held on 12 February 2013.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative